



The Organization of Specialists  
in Emergency Medicine

#### OFFICERS

ROBERT M. MCNAMARA, MD  
President  
Philadelphia, PA  
E-mail: mcnamara@auhs.edu

SCOTT H. PLANTZ, MD  
Vice President  
St. Pete Beach, FL  
E-mail: splantz@emmedicine.com

JAMES S. COHEN, MD  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Englewood, NJ  
E-mail: jsc@carroll.com

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611 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
phone 1-800-884-AAEM  
fax 414-276-3349  
e-mail info@aaem.org  
website http://www.aaem.org

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May 6, 1998

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
509 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: H.R. 3605 Patients Bill of Rights Act**

Dear Representative Dingell:

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine is pleased to endorse the above bill. The Academy is a professional society representing physicians board-certified in the specialty of Emergency Medicine. It is our belief that the Patient Bill of Rights Act, by codifying the "prudent layperson" standard for access to emergency care, will improve the well being of our nation's citizens. Delays in seeking medical care for serious conditions such as heart attacks, strokes, and asthma may lead to unnecessary deaths and complications. The "prudent layperson" standard will help prevent such delays. Because of this and other important patient protections in this legislation we whole heartedly endorse this Act.

The Academy would be willing to testify or provide case example of the need for this legislation as it applies to emergency care if that would be of service. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. McNamara, M.D., FAAEM  
President

RMM:eak